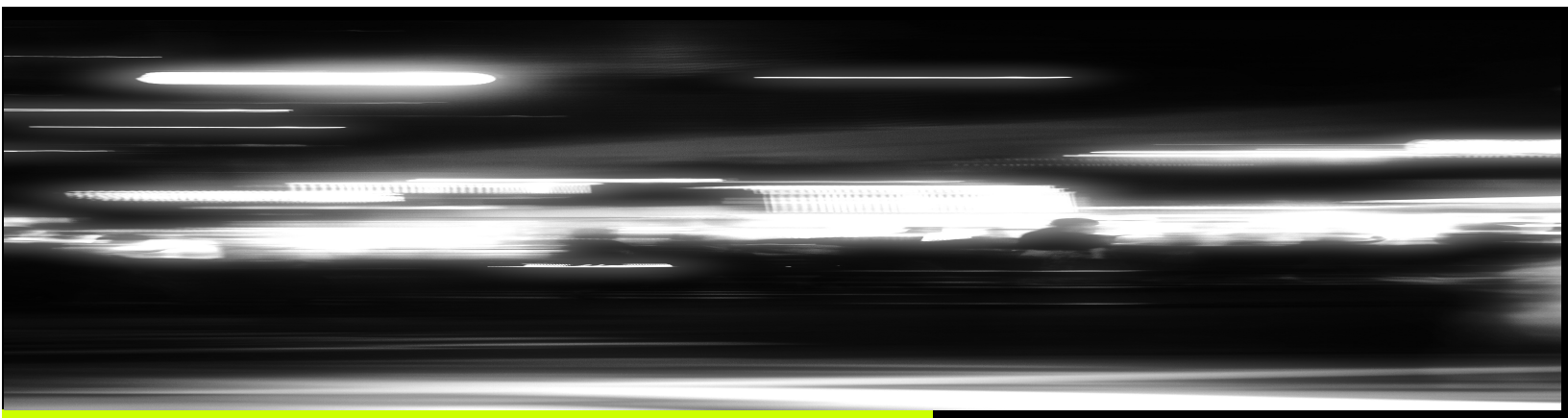
Lost Realm

Issue #1

By Ian/Iana Spencer



LAST MAGAZINE

is a new pdf-based zine by artist Ian/Iana Spencer. It will be focus on art and culture, ranging from reviews of media to retrospectives to meditations on how we interact with art.

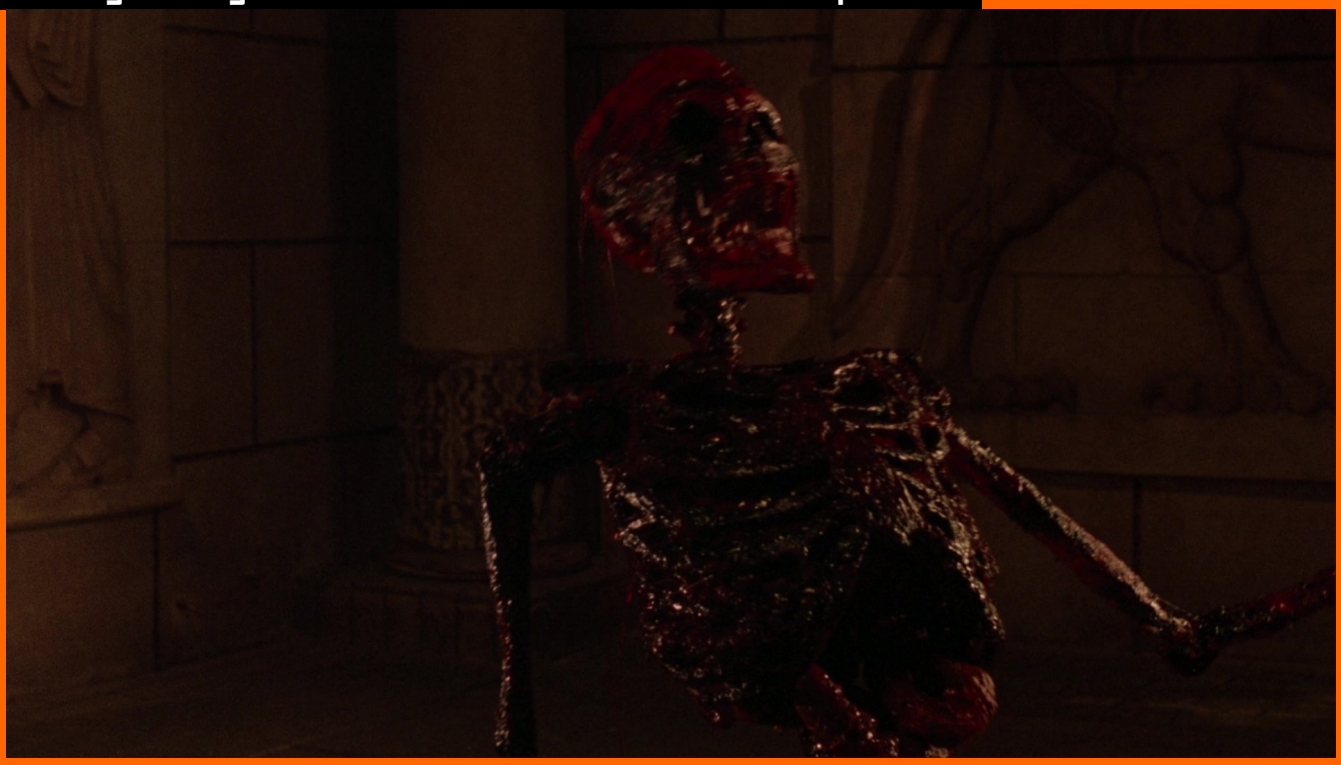
We need more movies like

WISHMASTER

The 1997 Wes Craven produced dark-fantasy horror film *Wishmaster* has one of the most laughable scripts in all of horror cinema I've ever seen. The dialogue is stylized, but less in a Tarantino way and more in a "I'm pretty sure the writers just thought it'd be cool if this character said this line and that's the sole reason why they put it there." When the evil genie tries to get in to this party in the third act (in order to track down the protagonist and grant her final monkey's paw wish, thus dooming the earth to be destroyed by his fellow Djinn) the bouncer, in response to being called "doorboy" tells the Djinn "The name is Valentine, Johnny Valentine!" in the most over the top "cool guy" performance of that line imagine. He is then tricked and presumably killed by the wicked Djinn and we never see this guy again. In a following scene the Djinn - may I remind you, an ancient and powerful entity from "the void in between worlds" - starts a line with "Alright, fuck it!" and ends it with "baby!" (I watched this film twice in a row and I still do not remember what he said in between these two phrases, nor do I think the film necessarily expects me to.)

This film is far scary and more campy and silly, made on a low budget with it's insane imagery being done with very skillful practical effects and editing tricks. The visuals are insane and visceral - a guy with no nipples has his skeleton sit up out of his body, tearing off his skin; Statues of snakes come

alive and rip off people faces; Even the Djinn himself looks like a rejected Mortal Combat character design. - and as technically impressive as they are cheesy. For lack of a better description, they absolutely *look* like practical effects, albeit really good ones. They are graphic and insane, but more wacky than actually scary - but that's the whole damn point.



Wishmaster is an insane, gonzo, bugnuts spectacle B-movie. It isn't trying to be taken seriously as a horror film, nor is real horror really what it's striving for. *Wishmaster* knows just how absurd and campy it is, and it leans into it.

By this description, you'd be forgiven for think *Wishmaster* is a horror-comedy in the vain of *Chopping Mall* or *Attack of the Killer Donuts* - films that have a slasher or B-movie structure but lean into the corniness of those films for the sake of comedy. Films that are in on and reveling in the "so-bad-it's-good" ironic enjoyment of them.

That isn't what *Wishmaster* is. The film is never laughing at itself, at least not in a self-deprecating or purely ironic way. It does know it's insane and goofy, and it leans into this in a way that feels entirely sincere, not reveling in a "Haha let's make a dumb fun movie" way, but in the nature of "No, we KNOW this is movie is ridiculous... And we're damn proud of it. Buckle in motherfucker, you ain't seen shit yet!"

I wish describe my enjoyment of *Wishmaster*, if you'll forgive the catch-all term, as "post-ironic". A movie that isn't merely content being "so-bad-it's-good" on purpose, but instead being so crazy and stupid that it looks all the way back around into being genuinely fun and actually good, in it's own deranged way.

In an era of cinema where studios “play it safe”, and don't give audiences nearly enough credit for being able to embrace artifice (which becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy), *Wishmaster* is deeply refreshing.

Say what you will about this film, but it sure as hell isn't “safe and corporate”

recommendation for this issue:

Name: “green target” by lizzy's personal army
Media: A song
Genre: Hyperpop / Art Pop / Experimental Pop
Great for: If you want fun hyperpop song that's actually good an interesting

OTHER NOTES:
-The artist's name refers to lizzy, their gecko fursona, the an bunch smaller geckos that presumably her titular personal army.
-It's structurally really creative.
-Some incredible sound design on display here.
-Very infectious melodies, there's multiple sections you might consider hooks.
-Some very fun and inventive lyrics
-Her fursona kind looks like Gex but cuter and blue, she's looks like a silly little lizard grimlin and that's fun